

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for due consideration given the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 75-78 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 69-74 and 79-81 are cancelled. The allowance of claims 77 and 78 and the indication of allowability of claims 75 and 76 is noted with appreciation. Claim 75 and 76 have been amended to stand as independent claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 69-74 and 79-81 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lechmann et al. (Hepatology, 2001, Vol. 34, p. 417-423). Claims 69-74 and 79-81 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fount et al. (WO 02/057314 A2). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims by this amendment renders the foresaid rejections moot. Withdrawal of these rejections is accordingly respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.1176 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims and places the application in condition for allowance.

The rejections have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge the fee of \$220 for the extra independent claim added herewith, to our Credit Card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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